

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11

DRC-01 /168 W

----- 016712

R 131500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9679

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2198

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN BG PK

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR DACCA

1. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH LEFT DELHI FEBRUARY 13 FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO DACCA TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SHEIKH MUJIB'S VISIT TO INDIA IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL. (ONE MEA OFFICER TOLD US MUJIB WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BE IN DELHI MARCH 20-24.)

2. SWARAN SINGH'S PRE-DEPARTURE COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN SHOULD HELP INSURE A GOOD RECEPTION IN DACCA. ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, HE CRITICIZED PAKISTAN FOR ITS "UNFORTUNATELY NEGATIVE" AND "OBSTRUCTIONIST" ATTITUDE IN NOT RECOGNIZING BANGLADESH AND IN OPPOSING ITS ADMISSION TO THE UN.

3. A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TOLD ONE OF OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES THAT THE VISIT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE

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BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED DELHI SEVERAL TIMES WHILE

SWARAN SINGH HAS NOT GONE TO DACCA FOR TWO YEARS. INDIA EXPECTS TO DISCUSS WITH BANLADESH THE SLOW RATE OF PAKISTANI APPROVAL FOR NON-BENGALI REPATRIATES FROM BANGLADESH TO PAKISTAN. IT STILL SEES NO WAY TO RETALIATE BY REDUCING THE RATE OF RETURN OF POWS WITHOUT ALSO AFFECTING THE FLOW OF BENGALEES TO BANGLADESH FROM PAKISTN, HOWEVER. INDIA IS PREPRED TO TALK ABOUT BORDER DEMARCATION AND ENCLAVE QUESTIONS LEFT OVER FROM THE ERA OF PAKISTANI RULE -- ISSUES SO FAR LEFT ON THE BACK BURNER AS INDIA AND BANGLADESH HAVE DEALT WITH MORE URGENT PROBLEMS. IT IS ALSO PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FAR MORE DIFFICULT ISSUE OF DIVISION OF THE GANGES WATERS AS A RESULT OF THE INDIAN DAM AND CANAL BEING CONSTRUCTED ACROSS THE RIVER JUST UPSTREAM FROM WHERE IT ENTERS BANGLADESH. THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL FAR APART ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, AND SWARAN SINGH'S PARTY WILL NOT INCLUDE ANY OF THE INDIAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT.

SCHNEIDER

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